SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, no constitutional ground has been pointed out by any of my hon. friends to oppose the introduction of the Bill at this stage. Under List I, Entry 47 of the Constitution, Parliament has competence to make a Bill. At the moment I am only introducing a Bill to carry out a statement which I made in the Budget speech that I would introduce a Bill to make the non-statutory Insurance Regulatory Authority as statutory authority. I submit, Sir, none of these objections are valid and I may be granted leave to introduce the Bill.

MR SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies and to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I introduce* the Bill.

13.55 hrs.

VICE-PRESIDENT PENSION BILL**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce* a Bill to provide for the payment of pension and other facilities to retiring Vice-President.

MR SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment of pension and other facilities to retiring Vice-President."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I introduce* the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : I want to inform the House that Item Nos. 28, 29 and 32 will be deferred. Now, we shall take up Matters under Rule 377. After this, we shall take up Item Nos. 30 and 31. These two Bills will be passed without discussion. Then, we shall take up Item Nos. 33 and 34, namely, discussions on Singapore Declaration and discussion regarding deterioration in the standard of sports in the country respectively.

Introduced with the recommendation of the President.
Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 20.12.96.

13.56 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to Evolve Concrete Measures for Utilisation of Funds Allocated for the Development of Scheduled Tribes in Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. Central Government will be aware of the fact that initiatives were taken to change the procedure which is in vogue for years for giving momentum to the implementation of development works under the tribal sub-plan in Madhya Pradesh. It has been proposed to provide the amount direct to the Adivasi project level. Under the tribal sub-plan, Project Advisory Boards have been constituted for utilisation of funds by the Adivasis for their welfare.

13.57 hrs.

(Shri Basu Deb Acharia *in the Chair)*

I urge upon the Government that to ensure that the amount being provided under the Adivasi Project is being utilized properly, some positive and concrete steps should be taken for implementation.

(ii) Need to Issue Licence for Setting up a Sugar Mill in Unnao District, U.P.

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH (Unnao) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, large quantity of sugarcane is provided in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh but in the abscence of any sugar Will nearby, the farmers experience lot of difficulties. Not only farmers but the whole nation is suffering loss as the farmers are not cultivating sugarcane. There is no sugar factory in Unnao. Local people and representatives of the area are demanding for setting up of a sugar mill for the last several years but Govt. is not paying attention to this.

I urge upon the Govt. to grant approval to set up a sugar mill in Unnao district in the national as well as in the interest of farmers so that cultivation of sugarcane in Unnao district is not discontinued.

(iii) Need to Give Ownership Right of Forest Land to Scheduled Tribes in Rajasthan

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA (Salumber) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the farmers in the country, for want of land, are cultivating the forest and revenue land for the last 15-20 years. There are Adivasi places in Udaipur, Durgapur, Banswara, Chittorgarh, Sirohi districts in Rajasthan where cultivation is being carried out for the

last 30 years. The houses and wells have been constructed on that land. When Govt.'s attention was drawn way back in 1992, the Govt. decided that the land in possession prior to 1980-85 will be surveyed and the Adivasis and farmers will be given the ownership right of such land. The Govt. conducted a survey. A committee was constituted for the allotment and some initiatives were taken to benefit the farmers but Govt. are not paying attention to the aforesaid work of allotment due to change of regime. I urge upon the Central Govt. to give ownership right to the farmers and Adivasi who have been in possession of forest land and revenue land for the last 15-20 years on humanitarian grounds.

14.00 hrs.

(iv) Need to Expedite Construction of a Youth Hostel at Sogul in District Belgaum, Karnataka

[English]

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI (Belgaum) : The Government of India has called for the tenders for the construction of a Youth Hostel at Sogul, Belgaum District, in Karnataka State.

Though the tenders have been called for long back, the tenders have not yet been accepted and the work has not yet started. Hence, I request the Union Government to complete the formalities for accepting the tender immediately so that work could be started at the earliest.

(v) Need to Set up a Wolframite Based Industry in the District of Bankura West Bengal

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : The Geological Survey of India, in the year 1979 estimated a reserve of 2,44,755 tonnes of ore of WO3 content varying between 8.05 per cent to 0.63 per cent up to a depth of 30 metres comprising Wolframite bearing quartz veins in Thanpahar, Cheradungri, Purappani and Dhajuri sectors of the Chendapathar area of P.S. Ranibandh, in the district of Bankura in West Bengal.

The Geological investigation and the analytical data of the systematic analysis outcrop samples (both channel and grab samples) and drilled rocks have indicated a significant presence of Tungsten both in the quartz vein and in the associated host rock. It is also interesting to note that besides Tungsten, notable concentration of Copper, Lead, Zinc, Bismuth, Silver etc. is found in the Chendapathar area.

Bankura District is a backward district in West Bengal and Wolframite is a precious mineral which is used in aeroplanes, canons, refles, filament of bulbs etc. I urge upon the Union Government to set up a Wolframite based industry in the district of Bankura in West Bengal and restore the honour of common minimum programme of the United Front Government.

(vi) Need for Construction of a Bridge Along the Existing Footpath Near the Palliady Railway Station on the Thiruvnanthapuram-Kanyakumari Railway Line

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : Providing a bridge along the existing footpath near the Palliady Railway Station on the Kanyakumari-Trivandrum Railway line or to man the existing level crossing therein is the long standing demand, need and necessity of the place. The people of Palliady and neighbourhood on one side and the people of Muruthoorkurichy and neighbourhood on the other are facing a lot of difficulties and inconvenience as vehicles cannot pass through from one side to the other side through this point. The level crossing is not manned. The footpath is very narro and vehicles cannot pass through it. The people have represented for long to man the level crossing, but it did not materialise. So, the only alternative is to provide a bridge along the existing footpath.

I urge upon the Government to provide a bridge along the existing footpath near the Palliady Railway Station on the Thiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari Railway line at the earliest.

(vii) Need to Repair the Road from Gulavathi to Ghaziabad

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : In my constituency the road from Massori bridge to Gulawathi is in a dilapidated condition. This road was constructed in 1974. Since then no repair work has been undertaken and whole stretch of 20 km is in broken state. There are 50 villages on both sides of this road and lakhs of people are living there. The condition of this road is so dilapidated that buses cannot ply on this road. People are facing lot of inconvenience.

I, therefore, request that this road should be reconstructed and widened.

14.05 hrs.

INDIAN CONTRACT (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA) : Now we shall take up the next item. Shri Ramakant D. Khalap to move the motion further to amend the Indian Contract Act, 1872 as passed by Rajya Sabha.